

Preliminary Amendment
Application No. 10/578,773
Attorney Docket No. 052911

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled and claim 6 has been added.

The amendment to claim 1 is supported in the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0014], [0016], [0018] and [0019]. New claim 6 is supported in the specification, for example, at paragraph [0017].

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Sadao Kinashi

Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 48,075
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

SK/ar